

MEMORANDUM

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL

September 10, 1979

ACTION

MEMORANDUM FOR: ZBIGNIEW BRZEZINSKI
FROM: ROBERT PASTOR *Bob*
SUBJECT: Meeting with Admiral Massera (U)

At your suggestion, I called Boleslaw Wierzbianski about his recommendation on Massera. Wierzbianski met Massera briefly, but does not really know him. The suggestion of meeting with you probably was made by Massera and conveyed to Boleslaw Wierzbianski through a mutual friend. (C)

I would recommend that you not meet with Massera for the following reasons:

- When Massera was the Argentine Navy's representative on the junta, some of the worst human rights violations occurred, and many then attributed that to the rivalry he pressed against the Army in the junta. (C)
- I have not met Massera, but Vaky, Kissinger and many others have, and their nearly unanimous impression is that he should not be trusted, and that his principles do not extend any further than his own ambitions. (C)
- The Argentine government would probably be more disturbed at a meeting between you and Massera than by anything Pat Derian could do. Videla and the Army Chief, Viola, view Massera as their most dangerous rival, and would fear that a meeting with you would endow him with more legitimacy than he deserves. They would also probably fear the possibility of Massera's conspiring with you. There is little question that he would exploit such a meeting for his own purposes. (C)

In short, I think that a meeting between you and Massera would have the paradoxical effect of angering both the Argentine government and the human rights lobby in the US, and I don't believe that anything you could learn from the meeting could override that. (C)

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Review on 9/10/85

~~Department of State, A/GIS/IPS/SRP~~

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RECOMMENDATION

Therefore, I recommend that I respond to Boleslaw Wierzbianski's letter on your behalf and express regrets that you will be unable to meet with Admiral Massera on the grounds that a meeting could be misinterpreted in Argentina as you trying to get involved in domestic politics in that country at a delicate moment in our relationship. (I will also repeat our strong and positive interests in promoting human rights in that country and elsewhere.) (C)

Approve _____ Disapprove _____

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